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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS ITEMS

News of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the State and Arranged For Busy Readers

PREPARATIONS FOR STATE FAIR.

The Chamber of Commerce Has Many Details.

Columbia, Special.—The Chamber of Commerce is progressing rapidly with preparations for fair week. The contract for wiring for street lighting has been awarded to the Perry Electric company. The arrangements as to street lighting will be different this year in that the material put up will be the property of the Chamber of Commerce and not rented as has been the custom in the past.

The Johnny Jones shows, which will have the street attractions, carry their own electric lighting plant and they are under contract with the Chamber of Commerce to present their full capacity of lights and an equal number of lights will be installed at the side shows by the Chamber of Commerce in addition to the ones used by the carnival.

Fun, But Not Rowdiness. The Johnny J. Jones Carnival company has arranged for the street shows. Police will not permit the sale of whips, rubber balls, confetti, etc., and will rigidly enforce the ordinance against the practice of throwing these things around the city. Every show that will be presented is represented as a high class attraction and no objectionable shows will be offered.

The Chamber of Commerce will not grant concessions to any one except with the express understanding that there can be none of the objectionable features. The idea of the committee having this matter in charge is that the fair shall be full of life and ginger with rowdiness eliminated.

Old Nicholas Malcher, a veteran of many fairs, will have charge of the water supply. Barrels will be placed at the corners on Main street and ice water can be had by all desiring it. The barrels have been scalded and painted and are in readiness to fill the functions required of them. The city has granted the use of the water.

Capt. R. J. Person, Jr., who can be found at the B. C. Electric company, three doors from the transfer stations, in charge of the information bureau, and has perfected arrangements for handling the crowds. Mr. Person in addition to his experience and ability, is a West Point graduate and ex-army officer and by reason of his military training, being well versed in matters of discipline, is thought to be an ideal man for the position he holds.

The Jonny J. Jones Carnival company has nine shows and is the best carnival that has ever exhibited in Columbia. The management has just secured a new show, "A Trip from New York to the North Pole," which is an entirely new production and will probably show for the first time with the carnival when they open their engagement in Columbia.

They have an animal show that is pronounced the best ever seen in Columbia, and a new trainer, who is now in charge of the animals, has few superiors in the animal business, and is no doubt the best with any carnival company. This company is also under contract to secure six other high class shows and they must be stellar attractions.

The band with the carnival was in Columbia last year and gave thorough satisfaction. It consists of 16 pieces and is an all-Italian band. It will give street concerts in the afternoon and night. Two merry-go-rounds will be here, which, with the Ferris wheel, will make things look natural. Three free attractions will be given on Main street. A balloon ascension with a

Resources of the State.

Gov. Ansel has appointed Messrs E. J. Watson and A. C. Moore, of Columbia, Earl Sloan of Charleston and J. E. Sirrine of Greenville as a committee to prepare a statement of facts, figures and tables on the resources of this State. These facts will be presented at the Southern Commercial congress, which meets in Washington in December.

parachute drop will be given once a day. This is a most spectacular act. An aerial trapeze act will be given twice a day. A hair-raising bicycle act, looping the loop and jumping the gap, will be given once a day.

Special Trains for State Fair.

The transportation departments of the Southern and Seaboard Air Line roads have arranged for the fair week crowds. Announcements have been made of special trains on all lines of both roads and, in addition, the regular passenger trains will all carry several extra coaches.

For the Southern railway Mr. J. L. Meek, the assistant general passenger agent of that line, has sent out the following letter to all officials:

"Gentlemen: Our transportation department has arranged for extra coaches to be handled on regular trains between Augusta and Columbia, October 26, 27, 28, and 29, also between Allendale and Columbia, Charlotte and Columbia, Spartanburg and Columbia, Greenville and Columbia and Charleston and Columbia, to protect overflow travel on account of the above occasion.

"In addition to regular train service, we have arranged for special train service, October 27, and 28 and 29, to be operated from Winnsboro to Columbia and to return from Columbia to Charlotte; between Spartanburg and Columbia, October 28 and 29; between Anderson, Belton, Abbeville and Columbia, October 28 and 29; between Allendale and Columbia, October 28 and 29, and between Branchville and Columbia, October 28, 29 and 30."

Assistant General Passenger Agent.

A special train will be run Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from Branchville, leaving there at 7.15 a. m. and arriving here at 9.40. Special trains will be run from Allendale Wednesday and Thursday, leaving there at 7 a. m. and arriving here at 10.15 o'clock. Special trains will be run Wednesday and Thursday from Anderson, leaving there at 5.30 a. m. and arriving here at 11 o'clock. Returning these trains will leave at 7 o'clock in the evening arriving at Anderson at midnight. Special trains will be run from Spartanburg on Wednesday and Thursday, leaving there at 6.30 a. m. and arriving here at 10.30. Returning these trains will leave Columbia at 7.30 p. m. and arrive at Spartanburg at 11.30 p. m. Special trains will be run from Winnsboro Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, leaving there at 7.30 a. m. and arriving here at 9 o'clock. All of these trains stop at every station and are in addition to the two and three daily on every line mentioned above.

The Seaboard Air Line will operate special trains from Hamlet, N. C., on Wednesday and Thursday. The trains will leave Hamlet at 6 a. m. and arrive in Columbia at 9.45. Returning the trains will leave Columbia at 5.30 in the afternoon. Specials will also be operated from Fairfax on the same days, leaving Fairfax at 7 o'clock a. m., central time, or 8 o'clock eastern time, and arrive in Columbia at 9.30. Returning the train will leave Columbia at 5.30 p. m., central time, or 6.30, eastern time. The tickets are good on all trains and go on sale on October 24 to 29 and limited to return until November 2d.

State News Items.

At Batesburg the fourth annual fair of the Tri-County Fair association was held last week under favorable circumstances. All roads in the three counties led to Batesburg fair, and every effort possible was made to prevent disappointment to any attendant.

Two Hangings in South Carolina.

Columbia, S. C., Special.—Lawrence Hampton, colored, was hanged at Greenwood Friday for the murder of Robert White, also colored, in 1906. Hampton confessed his crime and said that he was prepared to die. At Barnwell, Elliot Greene, colored, was hanged for the murder of Oliver Smalls, also colored, in February last. He confessed his crime.

OUR SCHOOLS

By PROF. WILLIAM H. HAND,
University of South Carolina.
Paper Number Six.

Change of Teachers.—The frequent change of teachers is a constant break and clog in the progress of the schools. It robs them of anything like an unbroken course of work and fixedness of policy. Every new teacher introduces some new feature into the work of the school—perhaps a good feature in itself, yet no better than what it displaces. It requires readjustment to install anything new, and the time and friction are a loss, unless the change is decidedly for better. Generally speaking, our best schools are those which have the fewest changes in the teaching force. It requires at least one full session for a teacher to become acquainted with his patrons. By becoming acquainted with patrons for more than mere social knowledge of them. I mean an appreciation of the tastes and their ideals and their ambitions, and a knowledge of their peculiarities, if you please. Until he understands these he is not in a position to serve them and to lead them, and a teacher who can not lead is of but little force. Not until after a teacher has taught from four to six years in a community is he prepared to give it his best services. Yet how few teachers remain in one school three years.

Some places change teachers every year simply because they have acquired the habit of doing so. Like any other bad habit, this one grows upon people. The trustees and the patrons frequently realize that their school is far inferior to some other school, and rush to the conclusion that they need a change of teachers, when the truth is that they have already injured their school by too many changes. Have any of my readers ever seen a pupil, or an entire class set to work in the same place, in arithmetic for instance, at the beginning of each of three successive sessions—each time by a new teacher? Is it probable that this would have been done by any one reasonable teacher teaching the school the three sessions?

This evil of change reigns in the town and country schools alike. I have in mind one town in this State which had six principals in eight years. Change was the only remedy it knew, and it believed in heroic doses. A great many rural schools rarely have the same teacher two years in succession. Many of these changes, in both town and country schools, are due to the neighborhood jealousies and quarrels already discussed. Many a community has its chronic critics of the schools, who are dyspeptic by nature and sour by habit. A teacher never satisfies them longer than one year. They know all about schools, and their own children are paragons of perfection. If any teacher finds one of these children anything but a paragon, straightway there is trouble. To listen to these disgruntled fathers and mothers with their tales of woe requires patience and grace. In their eyes there is but one remedy—change teachers. Not two months ago I heard a man not far from sixty years of age declare that he intended to "break up" the only school in his district, unless the trustees dismissed the present teacher. It had never occurred to him that perhaps the trustees were in the right. Such a man is in a small way an anarchist. In some instances fault finding and dissatisfaction are unwittingly encouraged by the board of trustees. The board, either ignorant of its function or disposed to dodge an unpleasant duty, asks the patrons to elect the teacher. Such a course is an invitation to division and the disappointment consequent to defeat, and will inevitably bring about discord. What is the board appointed for, if not to manage the school by lessening the occasions for discord?

A good many towns make it a rule to employ only young inexperienced teachers, and at the end of each year drop those who have failed, keeping the more successful ones until they have become really serviceable, then let them go because the trustees and the people are unwilling to pay for good teaching at par value. Some places boast that their schools are the gateway to the promotion of their teachers. This may be a credit to the school, and a discredit

to the people. It is not creditable, if the people are simply letting efficient teachers pass out from their schools in exchange for crude, inexperienced, because the latter is cheap.

A few town school boards are given to the indefensible habit of advertising every year for applicants for position in the school, when the board does not intend to elect a single new teacher. The king who marched his army up the hill, then marched it down again, did no more childish thing than these boards do. The thing is not only indefensible, but it is hurtful to the school, unjust to the teachers and dishonest to possible applicants. What meaning does such advertisement convey to every teacher in that school, no matter how efficient she may be? When the teachers ask for its meaning, they are told that it is only a matter of form, and that they need not be concerned. Great big grown business men playing like children! Then what about the innocent strangers who make bona fide applications in answer to what they suppose is a bona fide advertisement, only to be informed that it is a mere form? What teacher with any regard for ethics would apply for one of these places, if he knew that no vacancy existed and that the incumbent expected reelection? Is the board playing a game in diplomacy? Does it intend to see if it can secure better teachers, but if not, re-elect the incumbent? Such game would be dishonorable. If a school board wishes to change teachers for any legitimate reason, it has a perfect legal and moral right to do so. But the change should be made in a manly straightforward manner. Let the board frankly tell the teacher not to ask for re-election, declare a vacancy, then advertise for applications—if that is the best way to secure teachers.

Teachers themselves must bear their part of the responsibility for so many changes. There are some teachers who ought not to expect any school to keep them longer than one year. The captious (sometimes mis-called spirited), the eccentric, the frivolous, the giddy, and the ignorant ones may expect to float about like driftwood. Then there are some teachers who have an incurable mania for becoming birds of passage. I once knew a teacher to resign her work to go elsewhere on the ground that she had been in her present position three years. Then there is that class of restless mortals who have more ambition than ability. They apply every time they hear of a vacancy, and if they hear of no vacancy, they ask when the next one is to be. They tell you very frankly that they are worth a great deal more than they are getting, and that they are prostituting the profession when they work for so little. Once more, there is that foxy diplomat of a teacher who seeks a place in March, accepts it in June, and holds it until about two weeks before the school is to open, then telegraphs the board that she has accepted elsewhere (at two dollars a month more salary.) She calls this resigning; in law and common sense it is a violation of contract. Such conduct under ordinary circumstances is reprehensible, and wholly unworthy of an honest man or woman.

Killed by Fall From Tree.

Monck's Corner, Special.—Mr. Geo. Mims, a well known mechanic, met with an accident which resulted in his death a few hours later. He was at a baptizing at Canal Bridge and had climbed up a tree to get some berries for the children, when a limb broke and he fell a distance of 30 feet. Dr. W. K. Fishbourne was hastily summoned, who used all medical skill to revive him, but without avail. His death is very much regretted.

Missionary to China Dies.

Laurens, Special.—The Rev. S. Charlton Todd, who was on a visit here from China, where he had been engaged in missionary work for five years, died in this city last week at the home of his mother, Mrs. Junie Todd Clarke, after a three-weeks' attack of typhoid fever. He was 38 years old and is survived by his wife who remained in China during her husband's visit home. The funeral and interment took place here.

AUGUST FLOOD BULLETIN

Interesting Figures Given on Precipitation During That Month.

In the monthly weather bulletin on conditions in August, just issued, Section Director Bauer gives some interesting figures on the rainfall, especially at the time of the great flood. The report says:

"The average precipitation was 9.11 inches, which is 4.91 inches above the normal. The greatest local monthly amount was 19.52 inches, at Greenville; the least was 3.16 inches, at Yemassee. The greatest 24-hour fall was 11.65 inches, at Anderson, on the 24th-25th. The average number of days with rain was 10, ranging from six days at Blairs and Jacksonboro to 15 days at Effingham and Winthrop college.

"Excessive Precipitation.—At Anderson on the 24th-26th, 14.31 inches in 34 hours; at Blairs on the 24th-26th, 8.64 inches in 60 hours; at Calhoun Falls on the 23d-26th, 9.62 inches in 63 hours; at Camden (1) on the 25th-26th, 9.05 inches in 23 hours; at Catawba on the 23d-26th, 10.12 inches in 65 hours; at Cheraw on the 24th-26th, 6.54 inches in 62 hours; at Clemson College on the 25th, 2.81 inches in 24 hours; at Columbia on the 19th, 3.15 inches in 9 hours; at Conway on the 26th, 2.83 inches in 14 hours; at Dillon on the 19th, 3.69 inches in 24 hours; at Greenville on the 23d-26th, 16.04 inches in 78 hours; at Greenwood on the 24th-26th, 7.06 inches in 60 hours; at Jacksonboro on the 20th, 4.00 inches in 24 hours; at Kingstree on the 27, 2.60 inches in about 14 hours; at Liberty on the 24th-26th, 11.12 inches in 24 hours; at Little Mountain on the 19th, 3.21 inches in 24 hours; at Mt. Holly, N. C., on the 23d-26th, 11.19 inches in 58 hours; at Pelzer on the 24th-26th, 5.14 inches in 27 hours; at St. George on the 20th, 2.60 inches in 4 hours; at Saluda on the 6th 2.60 inches in 24 hours; at Santuc on the 23d-25th, 10.83 inches in 58 hours; at Spartanburg on the 24th-26th, 9.33 inches in 72 hours; at Ferguson on the 26th, 2.59 inches in 24 hours; at Walterboro on the 19th, 2.51 inches in 16 hours; at Winnsboro on the 24th-25th, 7.85 inches in 48 hours; at Winthrop college on the 24th-25th, 7.10 inches in 48 hours.

Report on Tobacco.

Columbia, Special.—Commissioner Watson has received a summary of the tobacco situation in this State, prepared specially for the department by Hartwell M. Ayer, as follows:

"Amount produced in 1908, 24,000,000 to 25,000,000 pounds."

"Of this 75 per cent is bought by the American Tobacco Company and the Imperial Company. The former's grades consist of cigarette and granulators (for smoking) and wrappers for American trade.

"The latter company's grades consist of cigarette and plug tobaccos, which are all shipped to England.

"We have a very small per cent of twist and plug tobaccos grown in our State. We have about 20 per cent. of a crop of semi-bright strips that are shipped to European markets, mainly to England by independent buyers. The remainder, 5 per cent of the crop, consists of scrap tobaccos that are manufactured by the American trade into smoking tobaccos. The independents buy from ten to fifteen per cent. of the crop of wrappers for American trade, principally shipped West. This is as near the information as we can give it, as all tobacco are manufactured in Virginia and the West. What per cent of our grades and kinds goes into the different outputs we cannot give you."

Edisto County is on the Way.

Columbia, Special.—Governor Ansel Saturday issued a proclamation for an election on the question of the formation of Edisto county to be held December 15. There has been considerable contest over this matter, the area of the proposed county being formed out of portions of Lexington, Aiken and Orangeburg.